

Symphony No. 2 "London" of Ralph Vaughan Williams (New York Philharmonic, Andre Previn, conductor; a tape of a live performance given in Avery Fisher Hall during the 1975-76 season; WQXR)

A symphony written by a Londoner during the second decade of the twentieth century Symphony No. 2 of Ralph Vaughan Williams a four-part musical portrait of London for which Albert Coates has provided the following program a program which has been accepted by Vaughan Williams as functional I. "London sleeps; the Thames flows serenely through the city; the city awakens; we get glimpses of different parts of the city, its varied character, its humour, its activity" II. "A portrait of the region known as Bloomsbury; a damp and foggy twilight; poverty and tragedy; an old musician outside a pub plays Sweet Lavender" III. "One must imagine oneself sitting late on a Saturday night on one of the benches of the Temple Embankment. The Thames flows serenely by" IV. "A picture of the crueller aspects of the city: the unemployed and the unfortunate. The music ends with the chimes of Big Ben on Westminster Tower. The Epilogue presents a picture of London as a whole" a four-part musical portrait of London an aesthetic form inseparable from the latitude and longitude of London England in the second decade of the twentieth century the last twelve symphonies of Franz Joseph Haydn Numbers 93-104 the first six of which were written for Haydn's London visit of 1791 the second six of which were written for Haydn's visit of 1794 to London the "London" symphonies so-called of Haydn Symphony No. 104 in D major is specifically referred to as "London" these twelve symphonies are they inseparable from the latitude and longitude of London England in the last decade of the eighteenth century twelve symphonies written by a Viennese for performance in London twelve symphonies inseparable from the latitude and longitude of Vienna in the last decade of the eighteenth century twelve symphonies inseparable from the latitude and longitude of London in the last decade of the eighteenth century pause and think about Haydn's "London" symphonies about Mozart's Symphony No. 38 in D major "Prague" Mozart's Symphony No. 36 in C major "Linz" Mozart's Symphony No. 31 in D major "Paris" about others certainly Missa Solemnis of Beethoven is not inseparable from the city of Saint Petersburg where the first complete performance of that work was given in 1824 on April 18th pause and think about the creation of aesthetic forms about geography about latitude about longitude.